

First Piedmont Rock Quarry

Chatham, Pittsylvania, Virginia
Superfund Program Site Fact Sheet

Type of Facility: Private Waste Disposal Area

Contaminants: Assorted Solvents, Lead, Cadmium, Barium, Arsenic, Zinc, Perchloroethylene, Hexavalent Chromium, Antimony

Funding: Enforcement Financed

Site Description and History

The First Piedmont Rock Quarry site is along Route 719 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, near the intersection of state Route 360. It is approximately six miles north of the City of Danville, Virginia. The site is an abandoned rock quarry. The surrounding land is primarily a wooded, rural area. Directly across Route 719 and south of the site is the Beaver Park Community. The closest home is approximately 150 feet from the site. All of Beaver Park relies on groundwater wells or springs as a source of potable water. Approximately 455 people live within one mile of the site and 1,893 live within a two-mile radius of the site.

The site was initially operated as a quarry for crushed stone. The four-acre site consists of the abandoned quarry and adjacent land. The First Piedmont Corporation leased the site in April 1970 to be used as a landfill for industrial and agricultural wastes until April 1975. Waste was disposed in the landfill until July 1972, until the Virginia Department of Health ordered waste disposal operations to stop due to a fire at the site.

The landfill contains approximately 65,000 cubic yards of industrial and agricultural waste and approximately 3,000 cubic yards of soil used as a cover when the land filling stopped. The quarry soils are contaminated with lead, barium, arsenic, and antimony. Separate and apart from the landfill are three other areas of waste on the site; two are associated with the land filling operation. The carbon black pile, consisting of approximately 100 cubic yards of carbon black and zinc contaminated soils, is approximately 150 feet from the western edge of the landfill. The waste pile contains approximately 10 cubic yards of waste and is contaminated with lead. The waste pile is about 75 feet from the western edge of the landfill. Not associated with the land filling operations, the Old Disposal Area contains miscellaneous refuse including bottles, cans, and metal debris.

The site was listed in the National Priorities List (NPL) on July 1, 1987. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on June 28, 1991. The selected remedies for cleaning the site were: excavation and off-site disposal of the non-landfill waste; off-site disposal of the surface drums and debris; installation of a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

of 1976 (RCRA) Subtitle C caps over the landfill; and collection and treatment of the leachate. Remedial Action (RA) started on June 30, 1994, and was completed on September 29, 1995. EPA issued a preliminary close out of the up gradient site on September 26, 1995. The Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) identified for this site is Goodyear, Corning Glass, and the First Piedmont Corporation.

Threats and Contaminants

Early sampling showed elevated levels of heavy metals including arsenic, cadmium, lead, and zinc from former disposal practices. Elevated levels of lead and zinc were found in surface water. Iron and manganese were detected at low levels in two of the residential wells, both up-gradient of the site. However, initial and subsequent investigations showed no immediate threats to residents. The threat to the near by Lawless and Fall Creeks due to migration/erosion of site-related contamination was eliminated through source control actions. Risks to individuals through ingestion or direct contact with contaminated leachate, surface water, or soils have been mitigated.

Current Site Status

The site is currently in the Operations and Maintenance phases and a deed restriction applies. The site is subject to a long-term monitoring requirement. Collection and treatment of leachate operate continuously, treating approximately 40,000 gallons per month. PRPs have implemented a long-term monitoring program that includes analyses of groundwater and surface water. EPA is currently investigating down gradient contamination in area streams. This action is due to information found during the Second Five-year Review in 2004. A 2006 Additional Remedial Investigations Report is under review by EPA and VDEQ. This investigation is to determine if residual carbon black in site soil is the source of the zinc in the Southern Drainage and Wetlands, and assess if removal is required.

Community Relations and Concerns

Citizens are concerned that groundwater contamination of private wells might occur in the future. Consequently, some residents requested that a water line be installed to homes near the site. In October 1993, EPA conducted residential well sampling and, on August 30, 1994, held a public meeting for the beginning of remedial action. A community field review of the completed site was conducted on November 16, 1995.

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